KANT SAHAY): (a) to (c) The Blue Book contains instructions regarding security arrangements of VVIPs. Details instructions regarding the procedure to be followed by officials of the Central Government and Union Territory Administrations in dealing with references from Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislatures as also the protocol to be observed while keeping appointments with them already exist and these were last reiterated by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in June 1988. At the State level, it is for the State Governments to issue appropriate instructions in this regard.

Permission to foreign groups to visit Siachen Glacier

] 1524. SHRI PRAVAT KUMAR SAMANTARAY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the past granted permission to conduct foreign groups to the Siachen Glacier, a highly sensitive area, with the help of the Ministry of Defence and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it i_s a fact that the same practice was discontinued later on; if so, when; and

(c) whether Government propose to revive the same practice of giving permission for conducted foreign groups to visit that sensitive areas; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) to (c) During the past three years permission had been granted for launching Indo-Japanese, Indo-American and Indo-Taiwanese Expeditions to the general area of Siachen Glacier. Expeditions are not allowed to enter areas where our troops are deployed or the Base Camp, leading to the Glacier. A Service Officer invariably accompanies each Expedition, as a Liaison Officer. The practice of granting permission to launch Expeditions to the general area of Siachen Glacier has not been discontinued.

Applicability of revised scale of Assistant/ Stenographer in Autonomous and Statutory Bodies

@@1525. SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the scale of pay of Assistant Grade of Central Secretariat Service and Grade 'C Stenographers of Central Secretariat Stenographers Service vide their OM No. 2/1/90-Cs. II/dated the 31st July, 1990. w. e. f. 1. 1. 1986;

(b) whether the same is applicable to autonomous and statutory bodies where the posts are in comparable grades with same classification and pay scale and where the recruitment is also through open corry>etitive examination;

(c) if so, whether the above stated bodies have implemented the said OM; if so. what are the details thereof; and

(d) if not, what are the reason therefor; and by when the same is likely to be implemented in these bodies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The revised scale of pay is *per se* not applicable to autonomous bodies or the statutory bodies which are not participating in the C. S. S. set up.. It is for each such body to take a decision whether to adopt this revised pay scale or not. Some of the statutory bodies like the Election Commission of India which are participating in the same open competitive examination have already implemented the revrsed scale of pay.

@@ Previously Unstarred Question 848 answered on the 8th January, 1991